

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA
INFORMATION OR SERVICES BY TOUCHING HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS
ON PHYSICAL DOCUMENTS**

Abstract

5 The present invention discloses a system and method for
selecting and accessing multimedia information and/or services
located on a user workstation or on one or a plurality of servers
connected to a communication network simply by touching with a
finger items (word, letter, symbol, picture, icon,) that are
10 electronically illuminated over the surface of a hard-copy
document or any other physical surface. The system includes:

- an opto-touch foil preferably transparent, placed by the user
over (or under) the document (or a portion of said document).
This opto-touch foil is used :
 - to illuminate and highlight hyperlinked items over the
surface of the physical document (or portion of the
document), and
 - to read coordinates of these hyperlinked items,
- an user workstation for accessing the information and/or the
20 service associated with the hyperlinked items.

For identifying and selecting said hyperlinked items, these
hyperlinked items are automatically illuminated by a luminous
signal (or light spot) generated by the opto-touch foil. The
opto-touch foil operates under the control of the user
25 workstation. Illuminated items are selected by pressing the
opto-touch foil. When the user selects an item among all
illuminated items, the user workstation receives from the
opto-touch foil a signal indicating the position of this selected
item. The user workstation identifies and locates referring to a
30 hyperlink table the information and/or the service associated
with the position of the selected item. If the information and/or

service is located in a remote server, a request is sent to this server. If the information and/or the service is stored in the user workstation, then this information and/or service is accessed locally.

5 Figure 5

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